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EXAMINER

VU, MICHAEL T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4-33, and 36-53 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4, 33, 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sorensen (US 2002/0061009) in view of Fontana (US 2003/0117946).

Regarding claims 1 and 33, Sorensen teaches a Bluetooth network (Figure #2, [0001-0006]) processing method, comprising: providing a plurality of piconets [0002-0011], each of which comprises a plurality of Bluetooth units [0002-0011], including one master unit [0004-0006] and a plurality of slave units [0004-0006]; and linking the piconets using the slave units to form a scatternet ring [0024-0027], wherein the slave units act as a bridge to connect the piconets (Figure #2, and Figure #6, [0005-0009, 0015-0022]) ; wherein the piconet linking step uses a centralized formation mechanism to form the scatternet ring [0005-0009, 0015-0022], and

But Sorensen does not clearly teach the scatternet ring is a closed single-ring Bluetooth network connected by a circle of piconets.

However, Fontana teaches the scatternet ring is a closed single-ring Bluetooth network connected by a circle of piconets [0034-0035, 0061-0076, 0090-0092].

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sorensen, with Fontana's teaching, in order to ensure optimizing the routing packet transmission in an ad hoc and/or short range network topologies.

Regarding claims 4 and 36, Sorensen and Fontana teach the method as claimed in claim [[3]]1, wherein the piconet comprises a master unit [0004-0006], a downstream bridge (Figures #2, Piconets #5, Piconet #7) and an upstream bridge (Figures #2, Piconets #5, Piconet #7, and [0005-0009, 0015-0022]) all of Sorensen.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 5-32 and 37-53, are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten **claims 5-32 and 37-53** in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claims 5 and 37, the prior art of record fails to teach alone or in combination the method as claimed in claims 4 and 36, further comprising the step of appending a plurality of control bit fields to a packet payload for routing the packet from its source to its destination, wherein the control bit fields comprise a relay bit field, a dirty bit field, a broadcast bit field, a source address field and a destination address field.

Dependent claims 6-32, and 38-53 are allowable for the same reason as set forth

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Vu whose telephone number is (571)272-8131. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles N. Appiah can be reached on 571-272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

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